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⑤④ Use of methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives for the manufacture of a medicament for fracture healing.

⑤⑦ The invention relates to the use of certain methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures. These compounds have surprisingly been found to promote a more rapid and stronger fracture healing in mammals including man.

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Methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives, in particular bisphosphonate compounds, are used clinically to inhibit excessive bone resorption in a variety of diseases such as tumour-induced osteolysis, Paget's disease and osteoporosis. Radiolabelled bisphosphonates are also used diagnostically to identify sites of high bone turnover.

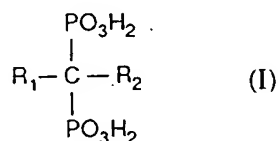
5 As the compounds bind to bone mineral and inhibit bone resorption, there has been general concern that bisphosphonates could have a deleterious effect on callus formation and remodelling, which is an essential part of the fracture repair process. Kanis, for example, teaches in Lancet 1984, 27-33 that bisphosphonates, as inhibitors of bone resorption, may indeed halt skeletal losses but on the other hand delay the repair of microfractures by reducing the rate of remodelling of damaged bone and inhibiting callus formation. As another
10 example, Reid et al. in Lancet 1988, 143-146 found that bisphosphonate treatment, in this particular case done with disodium pamidronate (= APD), caused a reduction in bone formation and a very low rate of bone turnover which raised the possibility of impaired microfracture repair. Furthermore, Alpar, in J. Clin. Hosp. Pharmacy 9 (1984) 341-344, expressed the view that the natural process of bone healing cannot be influenced by any drug.

15 Furthermore, one commercially available bisphosphonate, disodium etidronate, is even known to inhibit bone mineralization and to delay callus formation and fracture healing in man and animals at doses within the therapeutic range [see G.A.M. Finerman et al., Clin. Orthopaed. Rel. Res. 120 (1976) 115-124; L. Flora et al., Metabol. Bone Dis. Rel. Res. 4/5 (1981) 289-300].

20 Very surprisingly, it has now been found that certain methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives have a highly beneficial effect on fracture repair. In vivo experiments show that in the treated animals, e.g. sheep, there is a more prolific callus and the ultimate torsional strength of the healing osteotomy is significantly greater, whereas fracture stiffness remains unaffected. These results show that it is possible to use said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives to promote a more rapid and stronger fracture healing.

The invention therefore relates to the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid derivative of formula I

25



30

wherein

- (a) R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other halogen or
35 (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a group Ar-S- , $\text{Het}_1\text{-NH-}$, Cyc-NH- , Ar-S-A-N(R')- , $\text{Het}_3\text{-S-A-N(R')-}$ or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, wherein Ar is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, Het_1 and Het_3 are each unsubstituted or substituted monocyclic 5- or 6-membered monoaza-, diaza- or thiaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atom, Cyc is cycloalkyl, A is alkylene and R' is hydrogen or lower alkyl, or
(c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is $-\text{A-R}_3$, wherein A is alkylene, and
40 R_3 is either Ar as defined above or is Het_2 , which has the meaning of Het_1 but can be bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or
 R_3 is unsubstituted or substituted bicyclic monoaza-, diaza- or triaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or
 R_3 is unsubstituted amino or amino which is mono- or disubstituted by alkyl, cycloalkyl, Ar-alkyl, Ar-O-alkyl,
45 Ar-S-alkyl or Het_1 -alkyl each independently of one another, and Ar and Het_1 are as defined above, or
 R_3 is unsubstituted or Ar-substituted alkyleneamino, wherein two alkylene carbon atoms may be additionally linked to each other through alkylene, and Ar is as defined above, or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester,
50 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures.

Administration of said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives will benefit all mammals including man with fractures of any bone, especially vertebra, femur or radius.

55 The present invention is expected to have far reaching clinical and financial implications for the management of fractures. Treatment with said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives promotes callus formation and fracture union, reducing the time required for mechanical fixation, thus allowing earlier mobilization and weight-bearing. This shorter immobilization time will result in considerable reductions in secondary complications (e.g. reflex sympathetic algodystrophy, tibial non-union, reduced risk of pulmonary embolism, muscle

wasting and further bone loss secondary to immobilization) to produce enormous medical and economical benefit.

Thus, "treatment of fractures" means, in particular, promoting fracture healing, and, furthermore, improving the mechanical stability of the healing fracture.

Such fractures may be, for example, (a) the common, traumatic (disabling and non-osteoporotic) fractures, (b) the osteoporotic fractures (which are due to osteoporosis or osteopenia of any etiology), (c) fractures due to Paget's disease or (d) iatrogenic fractures.

"Iatrogenic fractures" means fractures due to bone loss as a consequence of side effects of other drugs, e.g. in asthma patients receiving high doses of corticosteroids.

In a particular embodiment of the invention, said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives can be used to treat the common, traumatic fractures, the osteoporotic fractures or the iatrogenic fractures.

The osteoporotic fractures have - with increased ageing of the population - become a major health-care problem. More than 40 % of women will suffer fracture of the spine, hip or wrist by the age of 70. Each year in the USA there are 1.2 billion osteoporotic fractures costing an estimated \$ 10 billion per year, of which \$ 6 billion alone is due to hip fractures (250'000 cases per year). In the elderly these fractures are often slow to heal and cause prolonged functional disability. Half the patients are unable to walk unaided and one quarter require long-term nursing care. Towards the end of their lives, 1/3 of women and 1/6 of men will have suffered a hip fracture, leading to death in 12-20 % of cases. In view of this immense problem of morbidity and mortality associated with osteoporotic fractures, pharmaceutical agents which serve to improve fracture healing will be a major therapeutic advance.

In another embodiment of the invention, said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives can be used to treat the common, traumatic fractures.

In a further embodiment of the invention, said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives can be used to treat all fractures in mammals which are not suffering from Paget's disease.

In just another embodiment of the invention, said methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives can be used to treat all fractures in mammals which are not suffering from Paget's disease or osteoporosis.

The beneficial properties of the methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives according to the invention can be demonstrated, for example, in a fracture model where the effect of the active substance on the healing of a 3 mm osteotomy gap in the mid-diaphysis of the ovine tibia is evaluated using the model of fracture repair under rigid unilateral fixation of Goodship and Kenwright [J. Bone Joint Surgery 67B (1985) 650-655]. In this model, twelve skeletally mature adult female Welsh Mule sheep of body mass 60-70 kg are divided randomly into two groups of six. The animals are housed in large indoor pens under a fixed day length of 18 hours light to suppress the oestrus cycle. The experimental group is given, for example, 0.5 mg/kg of active substance in 250 ml saline as a slow intravenous infusion over a period of one hour once a week for four weeks prior to osteotomy and twelve weeks post-operatively. The control group is given a similar infusion of saline alone at identical intervals.

At weekly intervals throughout the twelve week healing period the repair process is evaluated by standard view radiographs, dual photon densitometry scan through the mid-point of the fracture gap and measurement of an index of fracture stiffness during walking from simultaneous measurement of deformation of the fixator bar and vertical ground reaction force.

At the end of the twelve week period the animals are killed and the tibiae dissected free from soft tissues. Both the experimental and contralateral tibiae are mounted in a standard manner for torsional testing to determine torsional stiffness and ultimate torsional strength.

The results obtained can be summarized as follows: (1) Radiography: in all cases a more prolific callus is observed in the treated group. (2) Dual photon absorptiometry: an increase in bone mineral content as a function of time occurs in both groups. The rate of increase is e.g. 76% greater in the treated group than the controls [on analysis of covariance, significant at the level of $p < 0.01$]. (3) In vivo fracture stiffness: the values of fracture stiffness increase in magnitude as a function of time in both groups. However, no significant differences are found in either the rate of increase or end values between the two groups. (4) Post-mortem fracture stiffness: no significant increase in torsional stiffness is found using one tailed independent t-tests either between the treated and control osteotomies or between the intact contralateral tibiae. (5) Post-mortem torsional strength: a significantly greater ultimate torsional strength is found in the osteotomies of the treated group [$p < 0.05$]; no differences are found between the intact contralateral bones of the two groups.

Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of a compound of formula I are preferably salts thereof with bases, conveniently metal salts derived from groups Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb of the Periodic Table of the Elements, including alkali metal salts, e.g. potassium and especially sodium salts, or alkaline earth metal salts, preferably calcium or magnesium salts, and also ammonium salts with ammonia or organic amines.

Substituted phenyl is mono- or polysubstituted, for example di- or trisubstituted, e.g. by lower alkyl, lower

alkoxy, trifluoromethyl and/or preferably halogen.

Monocyclic 5- or 6-membered monoaza-aryl, diaza-aryl or thiaza-aryl is e.g. pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, including 1-, 2-, 4- or 5-imidazolyl, pyrazolyl such as 1- or 3-pyrazolyl, thiazolyl such as 2- or 4-thiazolyl, pyridyl such as 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl. Corresponding radicals can be substituted by one or more than one, e.g. by two or three, of e.g. alkyl group(s). Preferred substituted radicals include alkyl-substituted 1-imidazolyl and 5-imidazolyl, 5-lower alkyl-2-thiazolyl such as 5-methyl-2-thiazolyl, 5-ethyl-2-thiazolyl and 5-n-butyl-2-thiazolyl, as well as alkyl-substituted 2- and 3-pyridyl.

Unsubstituted or substituted monocyclic 5- or 6-membered monoaza-aryl, diaza-aryl or thiaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atoms is preferably a radical selected from the group consisting of 2-, 4- or 5-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, e.g. 2- or 4-thiazolyl, and pyridyl, e.g. 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, and which is unsubstituted or substituted by lower alkyl.

Unsubstituted or substituted monocyclic 5- or 6-membered monoaza-aryl, diaza-aryl or thiaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom is preferably a radical selected from the group consisting of pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl or pyridyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by lower alkyl.

Unsubstituted or substituted bicyclic monoaza-, diaza- or triaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom is e.g. imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, such as imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl.

Alkyl is preferably lower alkyl, alkylene is preferably lower alkylene, and Ar-alkyl is e.g. phenyl-lower alkyl which may be substituted in the phenyl nucleus as indicated above.

Cycloalkyl is preferably C₃-C₇cycloalkyl, e.g. cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or cycloheptyl.

Amino which is mono- or disubstituted by alkyl, cycloalkyl, Ar-alkyl, Ar-O-alkyl, Ar-S-alkyl or Het₁-alkyl is preferably lower alkylamino, C₃-C₇cycloalkylamino, phenyl-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, lower alkyl-phenyl-lower alkylamino, diphenyl-lower alkylamino, phenoxy-lower alkylamino, lower alkylphenoxy-lower alkylamino, phenoxy-lower alkylphenyl-lower alkylamino, diphenoxy-lower alkylamino, phenylthio-lower alkylamino, lower alkylphenylthio-lower alkylamino, phenylthio-lower alkylaminophenyl-lower alkylamino, diphenylthio-lower alkylamino, lower alkylpyridyl-lower alkylamino, phenyl-lower alkylpyridyl-lower alkylamino, phenoxy-lower alkylpyridyl-lower alkylamino, phenylthio-lower alkylpyridyl-lower alkylamino or dipyridyl-lower alkylamino, the phenyl or pyridyl moiety of which radicals may be substituted as indicated above.

Unsubstituted or Ar-substituted alkyleneamino is preferably lower alkyleneamino, e.g. 1,4-butyleneamino (= pyrrolidin-1-yl) or 1,5-pentyleneamino (= piperidin-1-yl), or lower alkyleneamino which is substituted by a phenyl radical which is unsubstituted or substituted as indicated above, e.g. 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,4-butyleneamino or 3-phenyl-1,5-pentyleneamino.

Alkyleneamino in which two alkylene carbon atoms are additionally linked to each other through alkylene is preferably lower alkyleneamino wherein two, preferably non-adjacent, lower alkylene carbon atoms are linked to each other through lower alkylene, in particular methylene. Corresponding 3-azabicyclo-C₆-C₁₀alk-3-yl radicals are preferred.

The general definitions cited above have the following preferred meanings, unless otherwise defined.

Halogen is e.g. fluoro or bromo, preferably chloro, but may also be iodo.

Lower alkyl is e.g. methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec- and tert-butyl, and in addition embraces corresponding pentyl, hexyl and heptyl radicals. C₁-C₄Alkyl is preferred.

Lower alkoxy is e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy and n-butoxy and in addition embraces corresponding pentoxy, hexoxy and heptoxy radicals. C₁-C₄Alkoxy is preferred.

Lower alkylene is straight-chain or branched and is e.g. C₁-C₇alkylene such as methylene, ethylene, propylene, butylene, pentylene, and also hexylene and heptylene, as well as e.g. 2-methyl-1,3-propylene, 2,4- or 1,5-dimethyl-1,5-pentylene. Lower alkylene as substituent of disubstituted amino R₃ contains at least two carbon atoms, preferably 4 to 6 carbon atoms. Lower alkylene which links together two lower alkylene carbon atoms of amino which is disubstituted by lower alkylene contains preferably up to 5 carbon atoms inclusive, and is preferably methylene.

C₁-C₃Alkyl is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl and isopropyl.

N-Phenylthiocarbamoyl is the group -C(=S)-NHC₆H₅.

Radicals or compounds qualified by the term "lower" contain up to 7 carbon atoms inclusive, preferably up to 4 carbon atoms inclusive.

The pharmaceutically useful methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives mentioned above are known or can be prepared in a manner known per se.

Thus, for example, compounds of formula I, wherein R₁ is hydrogen and R₂ is Ar-S-, are obtainable by reacting tetra-lower alkyl methanebisphosphonate in the presence of a strong metal base such as NaH, with a disulfide of formula Ar-S-S-Ar and subsequent acid hydrolysis of the tetra-lower alkyl ester (q.v. inter alia EP-

A-100 718).

Corresponding compounds of formula I, wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is $\text{Het}_1\text{-NH-}$, may be e.g. prepared by reacting a mixture of H_3PO_3 and $\text{P}(\text{Hal})_3$, wherein Hal is halogen, preferably chloro, with a formylamine of formula $\text{Het}_1\text{-NH-CHO}$, or by heating an amine $\text{Het}_1\text{-NH}_2$ with a lower alkyl orthoformate and a di-lower alkyl phosphite and hydrolysing the reaction product, conveniently in the presence of an acid (q.v. inter alia EP-A-274 346).

Compounds of formula I, wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is -A-R_3 , and A is alkylene, may be prepared by starting from compounds of formula $\text{R}_3\text{-A-Hal}$ and reacting these with a tetra-lower alkyl methanebisphosphonate in the presence of a strong base, e.g. NaH , and hydrolysing the resultant tetra-lower alkyl esters of corresponding compounds of formula I, conveniently in the presence of an acid such as hydrochloric acid (q.v. inter alia EP-A-275 821).

Compounds of formula I, wherein R_1 is hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R_3 , may e.g. be prepared by reacting a carboxylic acid of formula $\text{R}_2\text{-COOH}$ with a phosphorylating agent, as with a mixture of H_3PO_3 and $\text{P}(\text{Hal})_3$, and working up the reaction product under hydrolytic conditions (q.v. inter alia EP-A-170 228 and EP-A-252 505).

The preparation of compounds of formula Ia (q.v. below) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof is disclosed, inter alia, in DE-OS-2 405 254.

The preparation of compounds of formula I wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl is disclosed e.g. in EP-A-243 173.

The preparation of compounds of formula I wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a group Ar-S-A-N(R')- or $\text{Het}_3\text{-S-A-N(R')-}$ is disclosed e.g. in EP-A-464 509.

The invention relates in particular to the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid derivative of formula I, wherein

- (a) R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other halogen, or
- (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a group Ar-S- , $\text{Het}_1\text{-NH-}$, Cyc-NH- , Ar-S-A-NH- , $\text{Het}_3\text{-S-A-NH-}$ or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl which is substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethyl and/or halogen, Het_1 is unsubstituted thiazolyl or thiazolyl which is substituted by lower alkyl, Cyc is $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7\text{cycloalkyl}$, A is lower alkylene and Het_3 is thiazolyl or pyridyl, which are each unsubstituted or substituted by lower alkyl, or
- (c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R_3 , wherein A is lower alkylene, and R_3 is either unsubstituted or lower alkyl-substituted imidazolyl which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or is pyridyl, or R_3 is imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, or R_3 is unsubstituted amino or amino which is mono- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7\text{cycloalkyl}$, Ar-lower alkyl, Ar-O-lower alkyl, Ar-S-lower alkyl or pyridyl-lower alkyl, each independently of one another, and Ar is as defined above, or R_3 is unsubstituted or Ar-substituted $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_6\text{alkyleneamino}$, wherein two non-adjacent lower alkylene carbon atoms may be additionally linked to each other through $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_3\text{alkylene}$, and Ar is as defined above, or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures.

The invention relates more particularly to the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid of formula I, wherein

- (a) R_1 and R_2 are halogen, or
 - (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is unsubstituted or halogen-substituted phenylthio, unsubstituted or lower alkyl-substituted thiazolylamino, $\text{C}_5\text{-C}_7\text{cycloalkylamino}$, or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, or
 - (c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R_3 , wherein A is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_7\text{alkylene}$ and R_3 is an unsubstituted or lower alkyl-substituted imidazolyl radical which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or is pyridyl, or is imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, or
 - (d) R_1 is hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R_3 , wherein A is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_7\text{alkylene}$ and R_3 is amino, di- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5\text{alkylamino}$, N- $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7\text{cycloalkylamino}$, N- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl-N-phenyl-C}_1\text{-C}_5\text{alkylamino}$, N- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl-N-phenoxy-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl}$, N- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl-N-phenylthio-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl}$, N- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl-N-pyridyl-C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkylamino}$; $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_6\text{alkyleneamino}$ which is unsubstituted or substituted by phenyl which is in turn unsubstituted or substituted by halogen; or 1,5-di- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{alkyl-3-aza-bicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl}$,
- or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures.

The invention relates preferably to the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid of formula I, wherein

(a) R_1 and R_2 are chloro, or

(b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is unsubstituted or chloro-substituted phenylthio, unsubstituted or C_1 - C_4 alkyl-substituted thiazolylamino, cycloheptylamino, or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, or

(c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A- R_3 , wherein A is methylene, ethylene, propylene or pentylene, and R_3 is imidazol-1-yl, imidazol-5-yl, 1-methylimidazol-2-yl, 4-methylimidazol-5-yl, 2- or 3-pyridyl, or imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl, or

(d) R_1 is hydroxy and R_2 is -A- R_3 , wherein A is methylene, ethylene, propylene or pentylene, and R_3 is amino, dimethylamino, N-methyl-N-n-propylamino, N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino, N-cycloheptylamino, N-methyl-N-(2-phenylethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(3-phenylpropyl)amino or N-methyl-N-(5-phenylpentyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(3-phenoxypropyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(2-phenylthioethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(3-phenylthiopropyl)amino, N-methyl-N-[3-(2-pyridyl)propyl]amino, piperidin-1-yl, which is unsubstituted or substituted in 4-position by phenyl, or pyrrolidin-1-yl, which is unsubstituted or substituted in 3-position by 4-chlorophenyl, or is 1,5-dimethyl-3-aza-bicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl,

or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures.

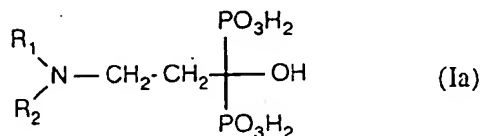
The invention relates very particularly to the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid selected from the following group of compounds of formula I:

4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-5-phenylpentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-methyl-N-3-(2-pyridyl)propylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-[N-methyl-N-(3-phenoxypropyl)amino]propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-[N-methyl-N-(2-phenoxyethyl)amino]propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 4-(4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-(1-piperidino)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl]propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 2-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(4-methylimidazol-5-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-5-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 2-(2-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(5-n-butyl-2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(5-methyl-2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1,1-dichloromethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(1,5-dimethyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(5-ethyl-2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(3-phenylthiopropyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(N-cycloheptylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-n-propylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[N-(4-phenylthiobutyl)-amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[N-[4-(2-pyridyl)thiobutyl]amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.

A particular embodiment of the invention is represented by the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid derivative, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, which is selected from 4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. alendronate; 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. amino-hexyl-BP; 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. methylpentyl-APD (= BM 21.0955); 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. risedronate; 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. tiludronate; 1,1-dichloromethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. clodronate; 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. EB 1053 (Leo); 1-(N-cycloheptylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. YM 175; 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. disodium pamidronate; 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. dimethyl-APD; 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. FR 78844 (Fujisawa); 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, e.g. U-81581 (Upjohn); 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester; and 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, e.g. YM 529.

Another embodiment of the invention is represented by the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid derivative, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, which is selected from AJ-704 and BBR-2756.

The invention relates especially to the use of a methanebisphosphonic acid derivative a compound of formula Ia



wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures.

The invention relates first and foremost to the use of the disodium salt of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid - hereinafter called disodium pamidronate - (for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition) for the treatment of fractures.

The pharmaceutically useful methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives may be used in the form of a possible isomer or of a mixture of isomers, typically as optical isomers such as enantiomers or diastereoisomers or geometric isomers, typically cis-trans isomers. The optical isomers are obtained in the form of the pure antipodes and/or as racemates.

The pharmaceutically useful methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives can also be used in the form of their hydrates or include other solvents used for their crystallisation.

The methanebisphosphonic acid derivative is preferably used in the form of a pharmaceutical preparation that contains a therapeutically effective amount of the active ingredient optionally together with or in admixture with inorganic or organic, solid or liquid, pharmaceutically acceptable carriers which are suitable for administration.

The pharmaceutical compositions may be, for example, compositions for enteral, such as oral, rectal or nasal administration, compositions for parenteral, such as intravenous or subcutaneous administration, or compositions for transdermal administration (e.g. passive or iontophoretic). Furthermore, direct local administration at the fracture site comes into consideration.

The particular mode of administration and the dosage will be selected by the attending physician taking into account the particulars of the patient, the fracture and the fracture state involved.

The dosage of the active ingredient may depend on various factors, such as effectiveness and duration of action of the active ingredient, mode of administration, warm-blooded species, and/or sex, age, weight and individual condition of the warm-blooded animal.

The approximate daily dosage normally to be recommended for a warm-blooded animal weighing approximately 75 kg is of from 0.01 up to 100 mg/kg, preferably of from 0.10 up to 5 mg/kg, especially of from 0.12 up to 5 mg/kg, which is optionally taken in several, optionally equal, partial doses. But also other, e.g. weekly regimens, for example 0.01 up to 100 mg/kg, preferably of from 0.10 up to 5 mg/kg, especially of from 0.12 up to 5 mg/kg, once, twice or thrice weekly, come into consideration.

Preferably, the methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives are administered in doses which are in the same order of magnitude as those used in the treatment of the diseases classically treated with methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives, such as Paget's disease, tumour-induced hypercalcaemia or osteoporosis. In other words, preferably the methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives are administered in doses which would likewise be therapeutically effective in the treatment of Paget's disease, tumour-induced hypercalcaemia or osteoporosis, i.e. preferably they are administered in doses which would likewise effectively inhibit bone resorption.

Formulations in single dose unit form contain preferably from about 1 % to about 90 %, and formulations not in single dose unit form contain preferably from about 0.1 % to about 20 %, of the active ingredient. Single dose unit forms such as capsules, tablets or dragées contain e.g. from about 1 mg to about 500 mg of the active ingredient.

In the case of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, especially disodium pamidronate, or any hydrate thereof, preferably a dose of 0.15 - 4.90 mg/kg, especially 0.30 - 3.40 mg/kg - in several partial doses or advantageously as a single dose - is administered to the mammal in need thereof, preferably within 7 days after fixation of the fracture. Optionally, another dose of 0.15 - 4.90 mg/kg, especially 0.30 - 3.40 mg/kg - in several partial doses or advantageously as a single dose - is administered to the mammal, preferably within the next 30 days after administration of the first dose.

Preferred is the direct local administration at the fracture site or intravenous administration of disodium pamidronate.

"mg/kg" means mg drug per kg body weight of the mammal to be treated.

5 In each of the cases of (a) 4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (b) 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (c) 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (d) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)-ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (e) 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (f) 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (g) 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (h) 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (i) 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (j) 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (k) 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, (l) 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester and (m) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, preferably a dose of 0.01 - 3.40 mg/kg, especially 0.05 - 2.40 mg/kg - in several partial doses or advantageously as a single dose - is administered to the mammal in need thereof, preferably within 15 7 days after fixation of the fracture. Optionally, another dose of 0.01 - 3.40 mg/kg, especially 0.05 - 2.40 mg/kg - in several partial doses or advantageously as a single dose - is administered to the mammal, preferably within the next 30 days after administration of the first dose. Preferred is the direct local administration at the fracture site or intravenous administration of any of the drugs mentioned above.

20 The invention further relates to the use of a composition for the manufacture of a medicament, e.g. in single dose unit form, for the treatment of fractures in mammals, wherein the composition contains 0.15 - 4.90 mg/kg, especially 0.30 - 3.40 mg/kg, of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, especially disodium pamidronate, or any hydrate thereof, per dosage form.

Moreover, the invention relates to the use of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, especially disodium pamidronate, or any hydrate thereof, at a dose of 25 0.15 - 4.90 mg/kg, especially 0.30 - 3.40 mg/kg, per dosage form for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of fractures.

The invention further relates to the use of a composition for the manufacture of a medicament, e.g. in single dose unit form, for the treatment of fractures in mammals, wherein the composition contains 0.01 - 3.40 30 mg/kg, especially 0.05 - 2.40 mg/kg, of a compound selected from (a) 4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (b) 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (c) 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (d) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)-ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (e) 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (f) 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (g) 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (h) 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (i) 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (j) 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (k) 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, (l) 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester and (m) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and any hydrate thereof, per dosage form.

40 Moreover, the invention relates to the use of a compound selected from (a) 4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (b) 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (c) 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (d) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (e) 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (f) 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (g) 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (h) 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (i) 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (j) 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (k) 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, (l) 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester and (m) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and any hydrate thereof, at a dose of 0.01 - 3.40 mg/kg, especially 50 0.05 - 2.40 mg/kg, per dosage form for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of fractures.

Pharmaceutical preparations for enteral and parenteral administration are, for example, those in dosage unit forms, such as dragées, tablets or capsules and also ampoules. They are prepared in a manner known per se, for example by means of conventional mixing, granulating, confectioning, dissolving or lyophilising processes. For example, pharmaceutical preparations for oral administration can be obtained by combining the 55 active ingredient with solid carriers, where appropriate granulating a resulting mixture, and processing the mixture or granulate, if desired or necessary after the addition of suitable adjuncts, into tablets or dragée cores.

Suitable carriers are especially fillers, such as sugars, for example lactose, saccharose, mannitol or sorbitol, cellulose preparations and/or calcium phosphates, for example tricalcium phosphate or calcium hydrogen phosphate, and also binders, such as starch pastes, using, for example, corn, wheat, rice or potato starch, ge-

latin, tragacanth, methyl-cellulose and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone and, if desired, disintegrators, such as the above-mentioned starches, also carboxymethyl starch, crosslinked polyvinylpyrrolidone, agar or alginic acid or a salt thereof, such as sodium alginate. Adjuncts are especially flow-regulating agents and lubricants, for example silicic acid, talc, stearic acid or salts thereof, such as magnesium or calcium stearate, and/or polyethylene glycol. Drage cores are provided with suitable coatings that may be resistant to gastric juices, there being used, inter alia, concentrated sugar solutions that optionally contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol and/or titanium dioxide, or lacquer solutions in suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures or, to produce coatings that are resistant to gastric juices, solutions of suitable cellulose preparations, such as acetylcellulose phthalate or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate. Colouring substances or pigments may be added to the tablets or drage coatings, for example for the purpose of identification or to indicate different doses of active ingredient.

Other orally administrable pharmaceutical preparations are dry-filled capsules made of gelatin, and also soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a plasticiser, such as glycerol or sorbitol. The dry-filled capsules may contain the active ingredient in the form of a granulate, for example in admixture with fillers, such as lactose, binders, such as starches, and/or glidants, such as talc or magnesium stearate, and, where appropriate, stabilisers. In soft capsules the active ingredient is preferably dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, paraffin oil or liquid polyethylene glycols, it being possible also for stabilisers to be added.

Parenteral formulations are especially injectable fluids that are effective in various manners, such as intravenously, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally, intranasally, intradermally or subcutaneously. Such fluids are preferably isotonic aqueous solutions or suspensions which can be prepared before use, for example from lyophilised preparations which contain the active ingredient alone or together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The pharmaceutical preparations may be sterilised and/or contain adjuncts, for example preservatives, stabilisers, wetting agents and/or emulsifiers, solubilisers, salts for regulating the osmotic pressure and/or buffers.

Suitable formulations for transdermal application include an effective amount of the active ingredient with carrier. Advantageous carriers include absorbable pharmacologically acceptable solvents to assist passage through the skin of the host. Characteristically, transdermal devices are in the form of a bandage comprising a backing member, a reservoir containing the compound optionally with carriers, optionally a rate controlling barrier to deliver the active ingredient of the skin of the host at a controlled and predetermined rate over a prolonged period of time, and means to secure the device to the skin.

The following Examples illustrate the invention described hereinbefore. The term "active ingredient" is to be understood as being any one of the methanebisphosphonic acid derivatives mentioned above as being useful according to the present invention.

Example 1: Capsules containing coated pellets of, for example, disodium pamidronate pentahydrate, as active ingredient:

Core pellet:	
active ingredient (ground) (\approx 150 mg of anhydrous active ingredient)	197.3 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel® PH 105)	52.7 mg
	<u>250.0 mg</u>

+ Inner coating:	
Cellulose HP-M 603	10.0 mg
Polyethylene glycol	2.0 mg
Talc	8.0 mg
	<u>270.0 mg</u>

+ Gastric juice-resistant outer coating:	
Eudragit® L 30 D (solid)	90.0 mg
Triethyl citrate	21.0 mg
Antifoam® AF	2.0 mg
Water	
Talc	7.0 mg
	<u>390.0 mg</u>

A mixture of disodium pamidronate with Avicel® PH 105 is moistened with water and kneaded, extruded and formed into spheres. The dried pellets are then successively coated in the fluidized bed with an inner coating, consisting of cellulose HP-M 603, polyethylene glycol (PEG) 8000 and talc, and the aqueous gastric juice-resistant coat, consisting of Eudragit® L 30 D, triethyl citrate and Antifoam® AF. The coated pellets are powdered with talc and filled into capsules (capsule size 0) by means of a commercial capsule filling machine, for example Höfliger and Karg.

Example 2: Monolith adhesive transdermal system, containing as active ingredient, for example, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)-ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid:

Composition:

polyisobutylene (PIB) 300	5.0 g
(Oppanol B1, BASF)	
PIB 35000	3.0 g
(Oppanol B10, BASF)	
PIB 1200000	9.0 g
(Oppanol B100, BASF)	
hydrogenated hydrocarbon resin	43.0 g
(Escorez 5320, Exxon)	
1-dodecylazacycloheptan-2-one	20.0 g
(Azone, Nelson Res., Irvine/CA)	
active ingredient	<u>20.0 g</u>
Total	100.0 g

Preparation:

The above components are together dissolved in 150 g of special boiling point petroleum fraction 100-125 by rolling on a roller gear bed. The solution is applied to a polyester film (Hostaphan, Kalle) by means of a spreading device using a 300 µm doctor blade, giving a coating of about 75 g/m². After drying (15 minutes at 60°C), a silicone-treated polyester film (thickness 75 µm, Laufenberg) is applied as the peel-off film. The finished systems are punched out in sizes in the wanted form of from 5 to 30 cm² using a punching tool. The complete systems are sealed individually in sachets of aluminised paper.

Example 3: Ampoule containing disodium pamidronate pentahydrate dissolved in water. The solution (concentration 3 mg/ml) is for i.v. infusion after dilution.

5	Composition:	
	active ingredient (\cong 15.0 mg of anhydrous active ingredient)	19.73 mg
10	mannitol	250 mg
	water for injection	5 ml .

15 Example 4: Tablets each containing 50 mg of 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid can be prepared as follows:

20 Composition (10,000 tablets)

	Active ingredient	500.0 g
	Lactose	500.0 g
25	Potato starch	325.0 g
	Gelatin	8.0 g
	Talc	60.0 g
30		
	Magnesium stearate	10.0 g
	Silicon dioxide (finely divided)	20.0 g
35	Ethanol	q.s.

40 The active ingredient is mixed with the lactose and 292 g of potato starch, and the mixture is moistened with an ethanolic solution of the gelatin and granulated through a sieve. After the granules have dried, the remainder of the potato starch, the magnesium stearate and the silicon dioxide are admixed and the mixture compressed to give tablets each weighing 145.0 mg and containing 50.0 mg of active ingredient, which can, if desired, be provided with breaking grooves to enable the dosage to be more finely adjusted.

45 **Claims**

1. Use of a methanebisphosphonic acid derivative of formula I



wherein

(a) R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other halogen or

- (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a group Ar-S-, Het₁-NH-, Cyc-NH-, Ar-S-A-N(R')-, Het₃-S-A-N(R')- or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, wherein Ar is unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, Het₁ and Het₃ are each unsubstituted or substituted monocyclic 5- or 6-membered monoaza-, diaza- or thiaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atom, Cyc is cycloalkyl, A is alkylene and R' is hydrogen or lower alkyl, or
- (c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R₃, wherein A is alkylene, and
- R_3 is either Ar as defined above or is Het₂, which has the meaning of Het₁ but can be bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or
- R_3 is unsubstituted or substituted bicyclic monoaza-, diaza- or triaza-aryl which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or
- R_3 is unsubstituted amino or amino which is mono- or disubstituted by alkyl, cycloalkyl, Ar-alkyl, Ar-O-alkyl, Ar-S-alkyl or Het₁-alkyl each independently of one another, and Ar and Het₁ are as defined above, or
- R_3 is unsubstituted or Ar-substituted alkyleneamino, wherein two alkylene carbon atoms may be additionally linked to each other through alkylene, and Ar is as defined above,
- or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of fractures.
2. Use according to claim 1 of a compound of formula I, wherein
- (a) R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other halogen, or
- (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a group Ar-S-, Het₁-NH-, Cyc-NH-, Ar-S-A-NH-, Het₃-S-A-NH- or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl which is substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethyl and/or halogen, Het₁ is unsubstituted thiazolyl or thiazolyl which is substituted by lower alkyl, Cyc is C₃-C₇cycloalkyl, A is lower alkylene and Het₃ is thiazolyl or pyridyl, which are each unsubstituted or substituted by lower alkyl, or
- (c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R₃, wherein A is lower alkylene, and
- R_3 is either unsubstituted or lower alkyl-substituted imidazolyl which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or is pyridyl, or
- R_3 is imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, or
- R_3 is unsubstituted amino or amino which is mono- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, C₃-C₇cycloalkyl, Ar-lower alkyl, Ar-O-lower alkyl, Ar-S-lower alkyl or pyridyl-lower alkyl, each independently of one another, and Ar is as defined above, or
- R_3 is unsubstituted or Ar-substituted C₄-C₆alkyleneamino, wherein two non-adjacent lower alkylene carbon atoms may be additionally linked to each other through C₁-C₃alkylene, and Ar is as defined above, or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.
3. Use according to claim 1 of a compound of formula I, wherein
- (a) R_1 and R_2 are halogen, or
- (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is unsubstituted or halogen-substituted phenylthio, unsubstituted or lower alkyl-substituted thiazolylamino, C₅-C₇cycloalkylamino, or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, or
- (c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R₃, wherein A is C₁-C₇alkylene and R_3 is an unsubstituted or lower alkyl-substituted imidazolyl radical which is bound through a ring carbon atom or a ring nitrogen atom, or is pyridyl, or is imidazo[1,2-a]pyridyl, or
- (d) R_1 is hydroxy and R_2 is -A-R₃, wherein A is C₁-C₇alkylene and R_3 is amino, di-C₁-C₅alkylamino, N-C₃-C₇cycloalkylamino, N-C₁-C₄alkyl-N-phenyl-C₁-C₅alkylamino, N-C₁-C₄alkyl-N-phenoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl, N-C₁-C₄alkyl-N-phenylthio-C₁-C₄alkyl, N-C₁-C₄alkyl-N-pyridyl-C₁-C₄alkylamino; C₄-C₆alkyleneamino which is unsubstituted or substituted by phenyl which is in turn unsubstituted or substituted by halogen; or 1,5-di-C₁-C₄alkyl-3-aza-bicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl,
- or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.
4. Use according to claim 1 of a compound of formula I, wherein
- (a) R_1 and R_2 are chloro, or
- (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is unsubstituted or chloro-substituted phenylthio, unsubstituted or C₁-C₄al-

kyl-substituted thiazolylamino, cycloheptylamino, or is N-phenylthiocarbamoyl, or

(c) R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -A- R_3 , wherein A is methylene, ethylene, propylene or pentylene, and R_3 is imidazol-1-yl, imidazol-5-yl, 1-methylimidazol-2-yl, 4-methylimidazol-5-yl, 2- or 3-pyridyl, or imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl, or

(d) R_1 is hydroxy and R_2 is -A- R_3 , wherein A is methylene, ethylene, propylene or pentylene, and R_3 is amino, dimethylamino, N-methyl-N-n-propylamino, N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino, N-cycloheptylamino, N-methyl-N-(2-phenylethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(3-phenylpropyl)amino or N-methyl-N-(5-phenylpentyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(3-phenoxypropyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(2-phenylthioethyl)amino, N-methyl-N-(3-phenylthiopropyl)amino, N-methyl-N-[3-(2-pyridyl)propyl]amino, piperidin-1-yl, which is unsubstituted or substituted in 4-position by phenyl, or pyrrolidin-1-yl, which is unsubstituted or substituted in 3-position by 4-chlorophenyl, or is 1,5-dimethyl-3-aza-bicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl,

or of the methanebisphosphonic acid esters 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester or 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.

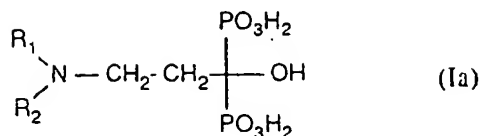
5. Use according to claim 1 of a compound selected from the following group:

4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(3-phenylpropyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-5-phenylpentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-methyl-N-3-(2-pyridyl)propylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-[N-methyl-N-(3-phenoxypropyl)amino]propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-[N-methyl-N-(2-phenoxyethyl)amino]propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 4-(4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-(1-piperidino)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl]propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 2-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(4-methylimidazol-5-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-5-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 2-(2-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(5-n-butyl-2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(5-methyl-2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1,1-dichloromethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(1,5-dimethyl-3-azabicyclo[3.1.1]hept-3-yl)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[(5-ethyl-2-thiazolyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(2-phenylethyl)-N-methyl-amino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(3-phenylthiopropyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(N-cycloheptylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-n-propylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[N-(4-phenylthiobutyl)-amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-[N-(4-(2-pyridyl)thiobutyl)amino]methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and any hydrate thereof.

6. Use according to claim 1 of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, which is selected from the following group:

4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1,1-dichloromethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methyl-amino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(N-cycloheptylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, AJ-704 and BBR-2756:

7. Use according to claim 1 of a compound of formula Ia



wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other hydrogen or C₁-C₃alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.

8. Use according to claim 1 of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.
9. Use according to claim 1 of disodium pamidronate, or any hydrate thereof.
10. Use according to claim 1 of 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.
11. Use according to claim 1 of 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.
12. Use according to claim 8 of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof, at a dose of 0.15 - 4.90 mg/kg per dosage form for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of fractures.
13. Use according to claim 12, wherein the compound used is disodium pamidronate, or any hydrate thereof.
14. Use according to claim 6 of a compound selected from (a) 4-amino-1-hydroxybutane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (b) 6-amino-1-hydroxyhexane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (c) 3-(N-methyl-N-n-pentylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (d) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (e) 1-hydroxy-2-(3-pyridyl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (f) 1-(4-chlorophenylthio)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (g) 3-[N-(2-phenylthioethyl)-N-methylamino]-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (h) 1-hydroxy-3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (i) 3-(N,N-dimethylamino)-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (j) 1-(N-phenylaminothiocarbonyl)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, (k) 5-benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-pyrazole-3,3-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester, (l) 1-(4-phenylthiobutylamino)methane-1,1-diphosphonic acid tetraethyl ester and (m) 1-hydroxy-2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-3-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and any hydrate thereof, at a dose of 0.01 - 3.40 mg/kg per dosage form for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of fractures.



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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
P,X	WO-A-9 221 355 (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY) * page 12, line 8 - page 18, line 9; claims 3,4 * * page 29, line 1 - page 30, line 21 * ---	1-14	A61K31/66 A61K31/67 A61K31/675
D,Y	JOURNAL OF ORTHOPAEDIC RESEARCH vol. 3, no. 4, 1985, pages 499 - 507 TIMOTHY M. LENEHAN 'Effect of EHDP on fracture healing' * abstract * * page 507, left column * ---	1-14	
Y	CLINICAL PHARMACY vol. 8, no. 7, 1989, pages 485 - 495 JANICE L. STUMPF 'Pharmacologic management of Paget's disease' * page 485 * * page 491, right column * ---	1-14	
Y	DRUGS vol. 41, no. 2, 1991, pages 289 - 318 ANDREW FITTON ET AL. 'pamidronate' * summary * * page 314 * ---	1-14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) A61K
D,Y	EP-A-0 243 173 (FUJISAWA PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.) * page 2, line 15 - line 17; claims 1-11 * ---	1-14	
D,Y	EP-A-0 274 346 (CIBA-GEIGY AG) * page 3, column 3, line 9 - line 54; claims 1-24 * ---	1-14	
-/--			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 17 FEBRUARY 1994	Examiner TZSCHOPPE D. A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons --- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
D, Y	EP-A-0 252 505 (BOEHRINGER MANNHEIM GMBH) * page 2, line 15 - page 3, line 49 * -----	1-14	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 17 FEBRUARY 1994	Examiner TZSCHOPPE D. A.
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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